We claim:

1.   A method for processing data records of multiple formats, the method comprising: providing a uniform interface for one or more plug-in modules, wherein each module is adapted to parsing at least one of the multiple formats; and, receiving the results of parsing operations from one or more of the plug-in modules through the uniform interface.

2.   A computer-readable medium having stored thereon computer-executable instructions for performing the method of claim 1.

3.   The method of claim 1, further comprising: providing services for manipulating data from the data records, wherein the services are invokable by the one or more plug-in modules to assist the plug-in modules to performing their tasks.

4.   The method of claim 3, wherein the services include a service to retrieve a line of text.

5.   The method of claim 1, further comprising: providing a standard format in which data from the data records is to be structured for storage in a database.

6.   A computer-readable medium having stored thereon computer-readable data comprising: a parsing module for parsing data records and converting the data contained in the data records from a non-standard format into a standard format and

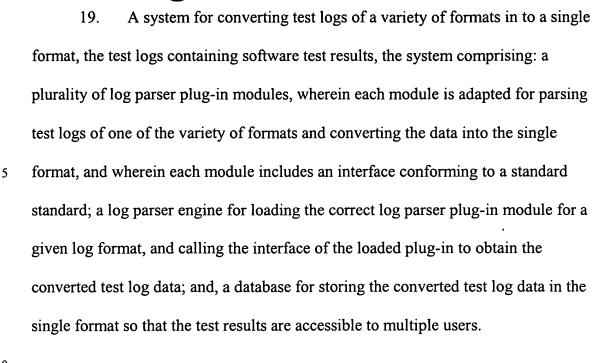passing the converted data through a uniform interface so that it can be stored in a database.

7.   The computer-readable medium of claim 6, wherein the parsing module is adapted to parsing one particular data record format.

8.   The computer-readable medium of claim 6, wherein the parsing module is a COM object.

9.   A method for converting data from a non-standard format to a standard format, the method comprising: retrieving the data from a record; parsing the data to determine its contents; resolving inconsistencies between the data and the standard format to convert the data to the standard format; and, passing the converted data through a standard interface for storage in a database in the standard format.

10.   A computer-readable medium having stored thereon computer-executable instructions for performing the method of claim 9.

11.   The method of claim 9, wherein the record is a log record and the data is converted into a standard log format.

12.   The method of claim 9, wherein the retrieving step further comprises: calling auxiliary services from a parsing engine to retrieve the data from the file.

13.   A method for converting a test log into a standard format, the method comprising: loading a log parser plug-in module to interpret the test log; parsing the test log to determine its contents; converting the test log into a standard format; and, passing the converted data through a standardized interface for storage in a database in the standard format.

14.   A computer-readable medium having stored thereon computer executable instructions for performing the method of claim 13.

15.   The method of claim 13, further comprising: converting a variety of types of PASS results contained in the test log into a single PASS category.

16.   The method of claim 13, further comprising: converting a variety of types of FAIL results contained in the test log into a single FAIL category.

17.   The method of claim 13, further comprising: tallying all PASS results to determine an overall PASS result according to the standard format.

18.   The method of claim 13, further comprising: tallying all FAIL results to determine an overall FAIL result according to the standard format.

19.   A system for converting test logs of a variety of formats in to a single format, the test logs containing software test results, the system comprising: a plurality of log parser plug-in modules, wherein each module is adapted for parsing test logs of one of the variety of formats and converting the data into the single

5   format, and wherein each module includes an interface conforming to a standard standard; a log parser engine for loading the correct log parser plug-in module for a given log format, and calling the interface of the loaded plug-in to obtain the converted test log data; and, a database for storing the converted test log data in the single format so that the test results are accessible to multiple users.

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20.   A system for converting test logs of a variety of formats in to a single format, the test logs containing software test results, the system comprising: a means for parsing test logs of one of the variety of formats and converting the data into the single format; a means for loading the correct log parser plug-in module for a given

15   log format; a means for providing the converted test log data to the loading means; and, a database for storing the converted test log data in the single format so that the test results are accessible to multiple users.